

REMARKS

Independent claim 1 and new claims 21-22 are present for reconsideration. Claims 2-20 have been canceled without prejudice. Claim 1 has been amended to more clearly distinguish from the art of record and better protect the invention. In this regard, claim 1 specifies that the outer wall portion of the cup is of defined length and has a first diameter (D_1) dimension that is relatively constant along the length of the outer wall. Support for this limitation can be seen, for example, in Fig. 4 of the specification and at paragraphs [0029] and [0031] thereof. Further, the seal, as now set forth in amended claim 1, comprises a thermoplastic elastomer; and as per the amendment to claim 1, includes a body and a lip. Further, the seal is stretch fit around the outer surface and positioned atop a stop member. The stop member 68 is clearly shown in the drawings and is described in paragraph [0033] of the specification. The body portion of the seal is disposed in contiguous relation with the outer surface of the cup at a portion of the outer surface having the first diameter dimension and with the lip extending away from the outer surface. The dispositional relation between the seal 56 and the stop can clearly be seen in Figs. 1 and 4 and is further disclosed in paragraphs [0033] and [0039] of the specification.

As the instant specification points out in paragraph [0007], in traditional desiccant cartridges, a flange or the like is provided on the outer wall of the desiccant cartridge to provide the requisite seal. However, the seal may be somewhat rigid and damaged when the desiccant cartridge is installed, and also the seal has a tendency to curl and harden from heat during the welding step in which the canister is closed.

The patent to Donnelly et al., 5,718,743 depicts a desiccant cartridge over which the present invention provides significant improvement. As can be seen in Figs. 1, 2, and 7, an outer cylindrical portion of the shell of the '743 device is provided with an annular flexible sealing lip 64 that is molded integrally with the canister. Accordingly, Donnelly et al. teaches against a removable mounting of the seal to the cup as herein required, and Donnelly is further deficient with regard to the provision of a stop member as herein recited in claim 1 atop which the

detachable seal is positioned. Donnelly, *ipso facto*, is not suggestive of a seal that is stretch fit around the outer surface of the cup.

To be sure, the Pulek et al. reference, 5,399,264, discloses thermoplastic elastomeric seals such as the SANTOPRENE® type seals. However, this patent is also deficient with regard to any suggestion of providing such a thermoplastic elastomeric seal that is stretch fit around an outer surface of a desiccant cup. Further, the '264 is deficient in regard to any teaching of the stop member herein recited, and further this reference is not at all suggestive of a seal having a body portion that is contiguous with the outer surface of the cup. Pulek '264 also is not suggestive of a seal having a lip portion that extends away from the outer surface of the cup.

Perry, Jr. et al., 6,168,647 is not at all suggestive of desiccant arrangements and does not teach the specific sealing arrangement herein required. More specifically, the seal in the '647 is provided in a groove that is recessed from the main diameter, such as the first diameter (D₁) specified herein, and the seal is not located atop a stop as recited in the instant claims wherein the stop, as claimed, protrudes outwardly from the D₁ dimension which is relatively constant along the length of the outer wall portion. Even if Perry '647 was construed to suggest the seal/stop dispositional relationship set forth in the claims, there would be no motivation to combine such structure with Donnelly since the seal (i.e., flange) 64 of Donnelly is integrally molded with the outer surface of the cartridge.

The instant seal provides significant advantage in that a variety of different seal sizes can be readily provided over a variety of differently sized cups. The claimed stop member functions to secure the seal against axial movement.

Claims 21 and 22 depend from claim 1 and are directed toward the cap feature, as clearly seen in the drawings. These claims should also be allowed. A Notice of Allowance is accordingly solicited.

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The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney if, during the course of reconsideration of this application any question or a comment should arise.

Respectfully submitted,

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